Maryland Gymnastics

Program & Profiles

The 1983-84 season for the University of Maryland promises to be an exciting one. Experience, skill and confidence marks the gymnastic team which has the necessary depth for a highly ranked national team. The Terrapins face stiff competition in opponents such as the University of New Hampshire, Arizona, North Carolina State and West Virginia, who will combine to create one of the most demanding schedules in the NCAA.

Maryland competed last year against top teams such as UCLA, Alabama, and Utah in the NCAA Division 1 Region for the first time. The gymnast's outstanding performances and the strength of the team proved the Terrapins could make the transition in developing a leading gymnastic program.

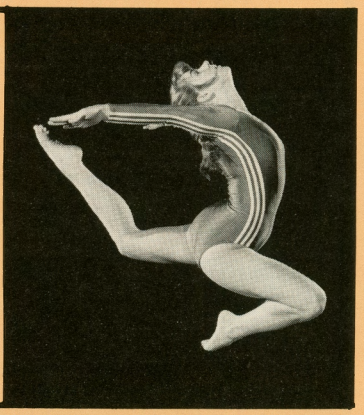
In the very first of Bob Nelligan's five years coaching at the University of Maryland, the 1979-80 Terrapins placed three girls in the EAIAW Regional Championships. The following year, marked by an intensified recruiting program and Coach Nelligan's determination in building a competitive team, the Terrrapins qualified for the Regional Championships where they placed 7th. The 1980-81 gymnasts finished the year with their first national ranking of 17th in the AIAW division.

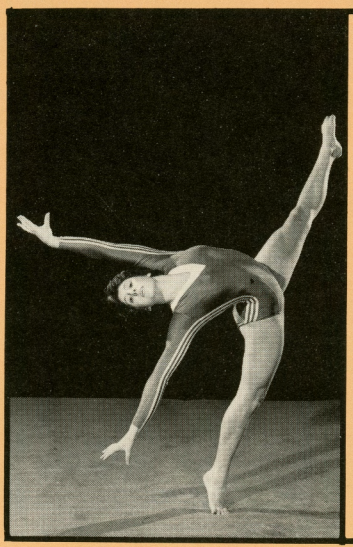
A positive factor for the 1983-84 season is the valuable additon of former captain and outstanding gymnast Jill Andrews to the Terrapin coaching staff.

Jennifer Huff, Junior. Jenni, Maryland's best performer, qualified for NCAA Division 1 Regional competition last year. She excels in every gymnastic event with exceptional showmanship. She is a tremendous performer on the balance beam, characterized by quick and graceful movements. Beautiful and inventive dancing, combined with dynamic tumbling marks Jenn's floor exercise routines. She is a born competitor and captivates her audience with her unique, colorful style. Balance beam 9.70, Floor Exercise 9.35, Bars 9.2, Vault 9.1, All Around 37.3.

Sandy Mitchell, Sophomore. Sandy is a promising prospect as an all around gymnast. Although her specialty event is the balance beam, she has become a strong competitor on the bars and vault as well. Sandy is recovering from a foot injury and is expected to be back in the line-up as a dependable gymnast.

Debra Farling, Sophomore. Debi, a top performer on the balance beam, adds depth to the Maryland line-up. Possessing the skills to excel in each gymnastic event, Coach Nelligan feels Debi has great potential to be a remarkable all around competitor.





Robin Swick, Freshman. Robin is another outstanding freshman. She was among the top 60 gymnasts in the United States Gymnastic Federation. Although she is a born tumbler and strongest on the floor exercise, Robin has the experience and skills to be a nationally ranked all around gymnast. FX 9.5, BB 9.2, V 8.95, B 7.95, AA 34.55.

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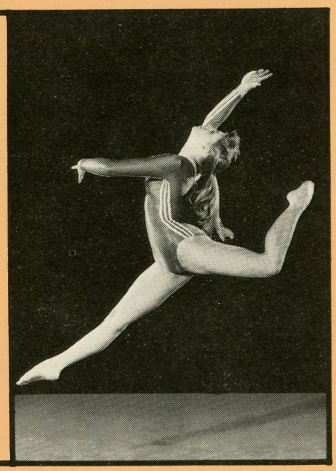
Kathy Richardson, Senior Co-Captain. As an all around competitor, Kathy sets the pace for Maryland in competition. She is an elegant performer, characterized by versatile, graceful routines, adding extra strength to the Maryland team.

Although she has been injured this year, she has contributed to the team unity. Coach Bob Nelligan believes that "her leadership on the floor has been an inspiration to the team."

Michelle Ritenour, Freshman. Michelle gained national recognition in high school when she won the prestigious McDonald All-American meet in Chicago. Michelle also competed for nationally known private teams such as the M.G.'s and the Marvateens.
V 9.5, FX 9.25, BB 8.85, B 8.65, AA 34.85.

Kathy Hudson, Freshman. Kathy is one of the four freshmen who has already contributed to the success of Maryland's gymnastic team. In her first collegiate meet at the Cornell Invitational, Kathy placed first on the bars. She is a strong competitor with an unusual and exciting bar set.



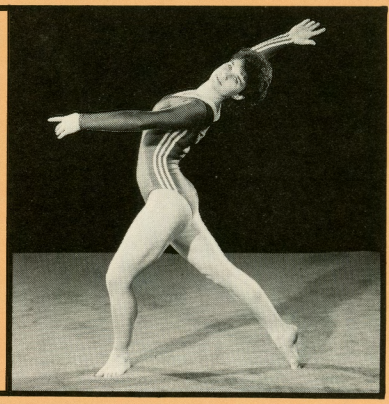
Kathy Fineran, Sophomore. Kathy is a strong all around performer. The uneven bars and the vault are her specialty events. Last year as a freshman Kathy scored a high 8.7 in both events. This year she is a sure contender for high balance beam scores as well. She is a very consistent, smooth, and poised gymnast.

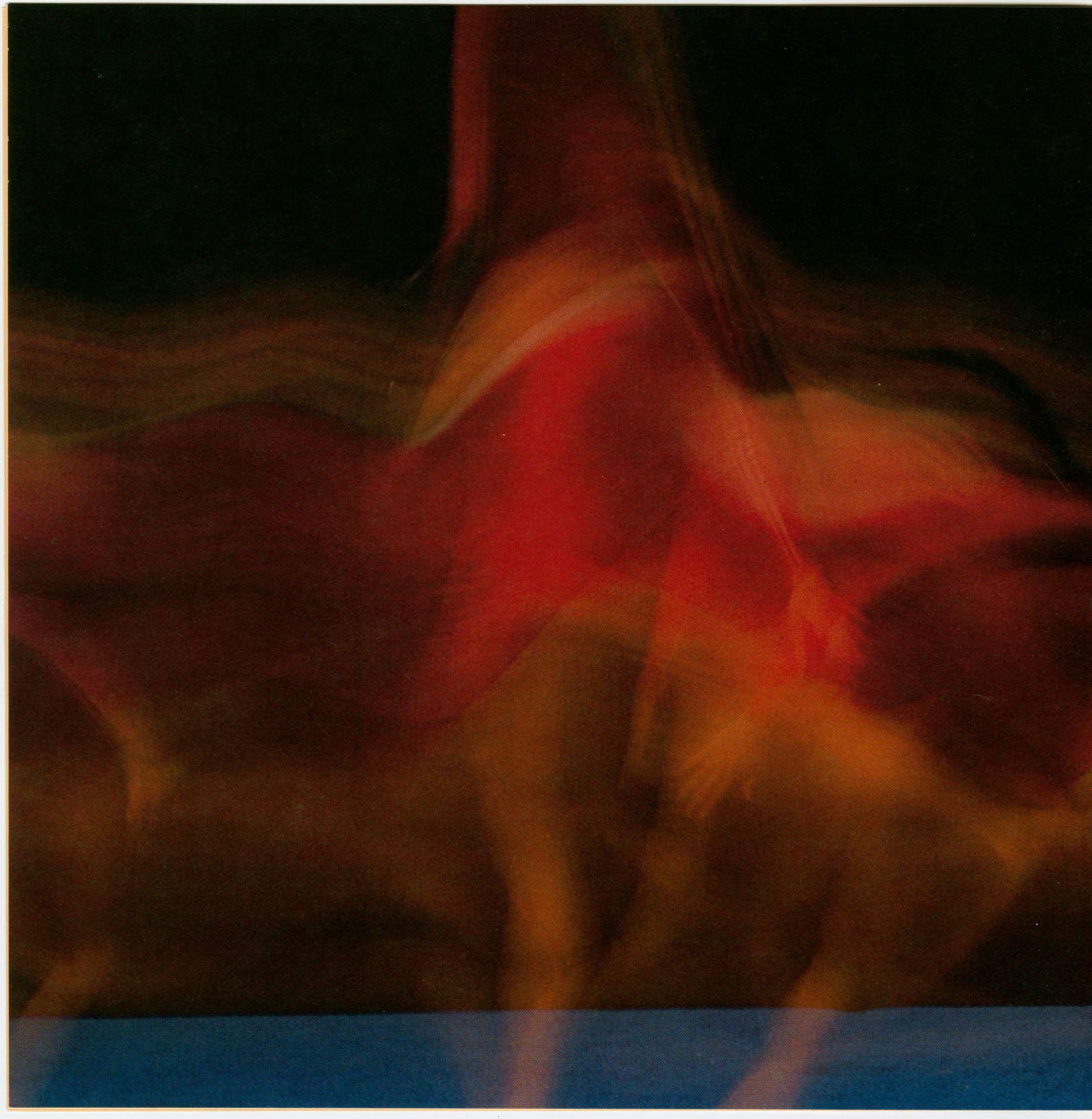
Julie Kane, Senior Co-Captain. Last year Julie didn't compete due to a knee injury but she has returned to the line-up and continues to be a top all around performer. Vaulting is Julie's strongest event. As a sophomore she placed 2nd in vaulting in the EAIAW regionals and was selected to the All East Team. Julie adds extra support to the team with her leadership qualities and spirited personality. V 9.25, FX 8.7, BB 8.85, B 8.65, AA 34.8.

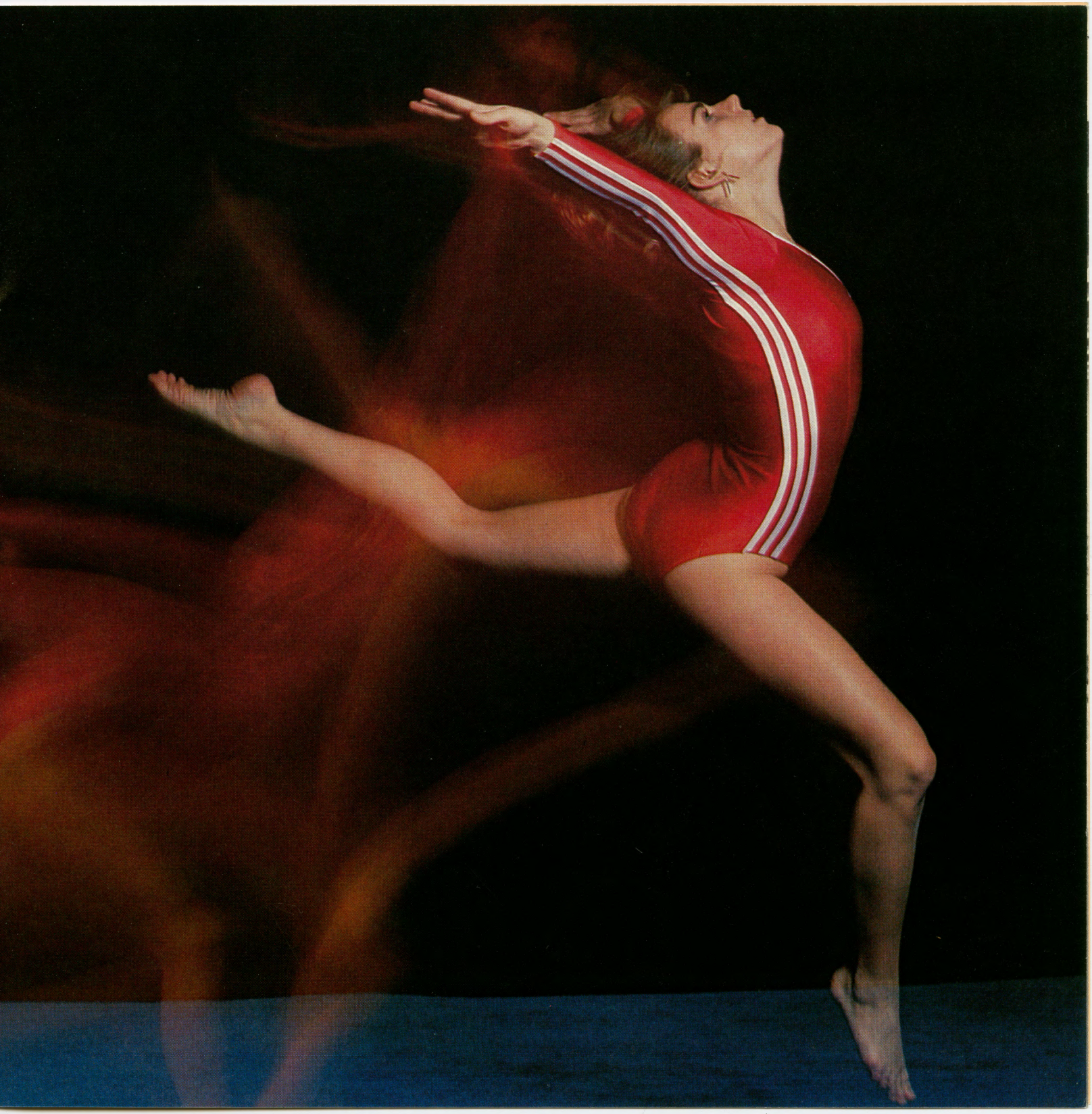
Leanne Lustica, Freshman. Leanne trained with the Gym Plus Team and the Marvateens before Coach Nelligan recruited her. She is one of the leading scorers for Maryland in the vault and floor exercise, but her real strength will be on the bars.

Ruth Shladovsky, Junior. Another top all around performer for Maryland, Ruth is a leading competitor on the vault and floor exercise. She has incredible stage presence and energetic tumbling ability. V 9.2, FX 8.7, BB 8.4, Bars 8.6, AA 34.05

Jan Hammond, Sophomore. Jan, an aggressive gymnast, is a strong competitor on the vault and exhibits difficult tumbling skills, blending expression and creativity to her floor exercise routines. Jan has also become a dynamic beam worker.



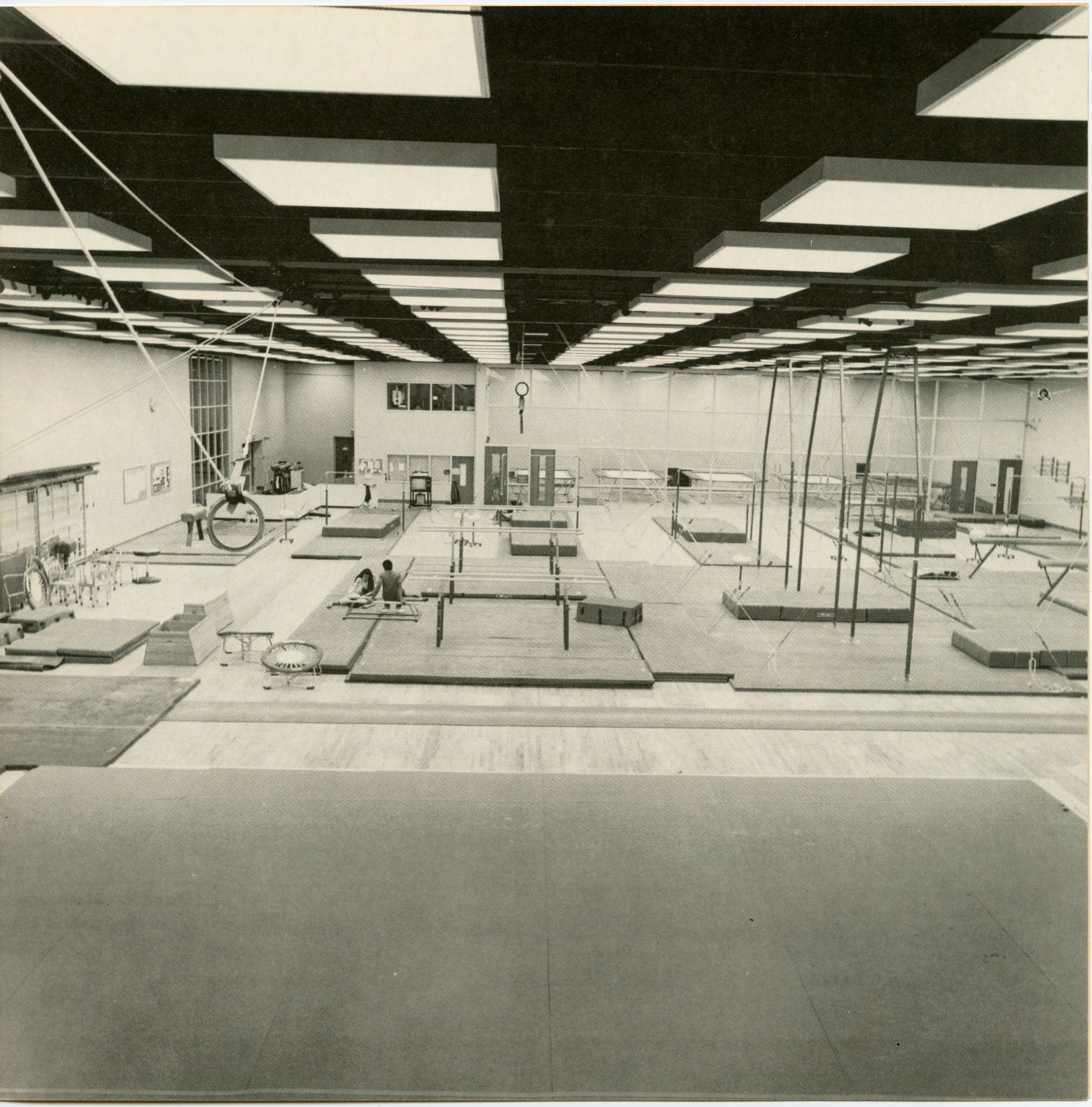


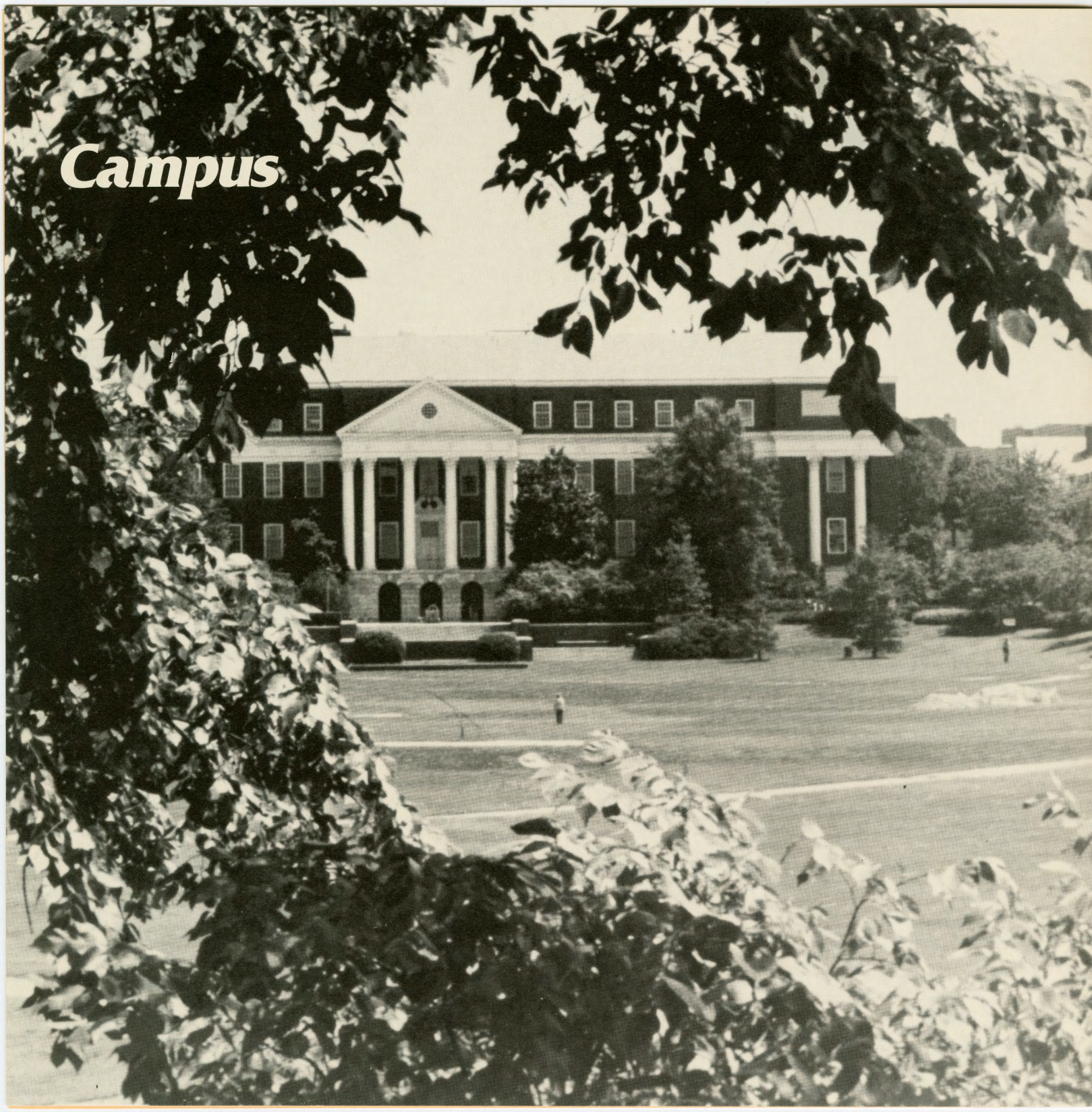


Facilities

Nutrition is vital to the success of an athlete in competition. The University of Maryland's Athletic department in conjunction with Maryland's Dining Services has provided a training table for the gymnasts. With the opportunity to maintain a well-balanced diet, the What's Your Beef Restaurant, located in the Adele Stamp Union Building, serves a high quality, nutritious dinner to the gymnasts every night after practice. A gymnast's diet is very important, therefore, meals are carefully planned in cooperation with the goals of the gymnastic program. Dinner includes a choice of two entrees, vegetables, and a salad bar which is served by waiters.

Located on the northern corner of campus is the North Physical Education Gym, home of the Terrapin gymnasts. The best equipped gym in the country, this spacious 18,512 square foot facility boasts a reuther spring floor as well as all reuther equipment, overhead spotting gear, and sarneige matting. Additionally there is a separate trampoline room. All gymnastic practices and competitive meets are held in this facility.




Campus

The University of Maryland at College Park (UMCP) is described as a Georgian colonial campus with nearly 200 buildings spaced across a rolling 1378 acre park-like setting. Classrooms, nationally acclaimed libraries, laboratories, and residential buildings are surrounded by malls and courtyards that dot the campus.

The prestigious Association of American Universities counts the University of Maryland among its 50 members. Maryland is also among the top 10 public institutions in 5 programs and 8 others are rated among the top 20.

An undergraduate student can choose from more than 110 courses of study or create a program of individual studies. The student/teacher ratio is approximately 16 to 1, as low as that of many small colleges. More than 70 percent of all undergraduate classes have fewer than 30 students and most large lecture courses include small discussion groups or laboratory sessions. Consequently, students at Maryland are able to work closely with their instructors, a fact which is essential in a quality education.

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